

[0005] If the first strategy is used, the patient is left in AF for the period of time that the anticoagulation treatment is performed. According to David I. Silverman, MD and Warren J. Manning, MD, Role of Echocardiography in Patients Undergoing Elective Cardioversion of Atrial Fibrillation, American Heart Association 1998, Circulation 1998; 98:480, it has been shown that a long-term maintenance of sinus rhythm is inversely related to the duration of AF before cardioversion. In addition, the recovery of atrial mechanical function may be inversely related to the duration of ARAF. Furthermore, there is an increased risk of overall hemorrhagic complications owing to the increased prothrombin times because of the anticoagulation therapy.

[0016] In an exemplary embodiment, the present invention provides for a method determining whether a defibrillator is connected to a transthoracic pad set or a combination of a transthoracic pad and a probe including a disposable sheath, the method including selecting the pad set or the combination of the pad and the probe including the sheath; detecting the pad set or the combination of the pad and the probe including the sheath; identifying whether the pad set or the combination of the pad and the probe including the sheath is connected to the defibrillator; configuring the defibrillator to use a low-energy setting in response to determined that the combination of the pad and the probe including the sheath is being used; configuring the defibrillator to use a high-energy setting in response to determining a determination that the pad set is being used; and arming and discharging the defibrillator to provide cardiac stimulation to a patient.